

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01686 01 OF 02 170930Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2790

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KUWAIT 1686

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AND MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, EAID, UNDP, KU

SUBJECT: CERPT 0008 EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 64907

SUMMARY: UN PROGRAMS IN KUWAIT CONTINUE TO EXPAND AT MODEST
PACE BUT INCREASINGLY PROGRAMS ARE FUNDS-IN-TRUST AND NOT UNDP/
GOK FUNDED. MEANWHILE FOR BOTH DEVELOPMENTAL AND POLITICAL
REASONS KUWAIT, DESITE ITS WEALTH, CONTINUES TO REQUIRE UNDP
JOINTLY FUNDED PROJECTS. BECAUSE OF SMALL AND DIVERSE NATURE OF
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01686 01 OF 02 170930Z

UN AGENCY PROGRAMS HERE, IT DIFFICULT TO DRAW ANY GENERAL

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS THESE PROGRAMS, BUT, ON BALANCE, WOULD APPEAR UN MAKING A VALUABLE, IF MODEST, CONTRIBUTION TO KUWAIT'S DEVELOPMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING 1974 FOUR MAJOR UNDP ASSISTED PROJECTS WERE CONDUCTED IN KUWAIT INVOLVING ABOUT 46 UN OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS. PROJECTS INCLUDED ONE REGIONAL PROJECT WITH THE ARAB INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING WHICH TRAINS STUDENTS FROM OTHER ARAB STATES IN VARIOUS PLANNING DISCIPLINES. THE GOK FUNDS THE MAJOR SHARE OF THESE UNDP SPONSORED PROJECTS. FUNDS IN TRUST (FIT) ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST ALL OF THE PROGRAMS OF OTHER UN AGENCIES ACTIVE IN KUWAIT. BESIDES THE ARAB INSTITUTE PROJECT, OTHER UNDP PROGRAMS INCLUDED A UNDP/FAO PROJECT FOR EXPERIMENTAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION, A UNDP/UNIDO INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, TO PROMOTE THE DIVERSIFICATION OF INDUSTRY IN KUWAIT, AND A UNDP/ILO VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR.

2. FIT PROGRAMS SUPPORTED A DIVERSE NUMBER OF UN EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES INVOLVED WITH A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SEVERAL UNESCO EXPERTS ASSISTING WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL TEACHING TRAINING AND CURRICULUM, ITU PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN TRAINING A BROAD RANGE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS AND SKILLED LABOR, UN/OTC EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST IN TRAINING PERSONNEL TO RUN THE COUNTRY'S DESALINATION SYSTEM WITH INCREASING EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPING R AND D PROGRAMS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER PROGRAMS SUPPORTING ONE OR TWO ADVISORS FROM THE ICAO AND IBRD, THE IMF, AND OTHER AGENCIES PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

3. FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL AND ARE KEYED TO PARA 5(A-I):

(A) ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM -- THE HEAD OF THE UNDP IS MR. JACQUES LEGER, A HAITIAN NATIONAL WHO IN MID-50'S SERVED AS HAITIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. MR. LEGER APPEARS TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ALL PROJECTS IN WHICH UNDP FUNDING PLAYS A PART. IT IS LESS CLEAR HOW EFFECTIVELY UNDP HQ IS ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY CO-ORDINATE ALL UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01686 01 OF 02 170930Z

PROGRAMS GIVEN THE NUMBER OF OTHER UN AGENCIES ACTIVE HERE REPORTING TO VARIOUS HEADQUARTERS AND THE LACK OF COORDINATION AMONG GOK MINISTRIES IN MAKING REQUESTS FOR UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. PART OF PROBLEM MAY BE RESOLVED BY RECENT ESTABLISHMENT DEPT OF TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITHIN KUWAIT PLANNING BOARD HEADED BY MISS NAIMA SHAIJI, WHICH IS CHARGED WITH REVIEWING AND CO-ORDINATING ALL GOK REQUESTS FOR FOREIGN EXPERTISE WHETHER IT BE UN, OTHER MULTI-

LATERAL, OR BILATERAL. WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT OFFICE, BUT ITS LOCATION IN GENERALLY WEAK PLANNING BOARD AND FACT IT HEADED BY A COMPETENT BUT MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICIAL WHO WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH MORE SENIOR OFFICIALS WITHIN THE MINISTRIES MAY NOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. WE ARE TOLD ALL UN AGENCIES HERE GENERALLY DO CONFER AND COORDINATE WITH UNDP WHEN REQUEST RECEIVED FROM GOK, BUT THEY NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY BOUND TO DO SO.

(B) COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE -- KUWAIT IS, OF COURSE, NOT IN NEED OF FOREIGN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND THEREFORE HAS NO COMPELLING FINANCIAL REASONS TO COORDINATE ITS REQUEST FOR FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH ANYONE. AS STATED SUBPARAGRAPH A, GOK DOES HAVE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALL REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH WHICH UN CAN MAINTAIN LIAISON.

(C) ROLE OF RES REP VIS-A-VIS OTHER UN SYSTEM ACTIVITY -- NO PROGRAM OTHER THAN THOSE OF TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE EXIST IN KUWAIT.

(D) COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS -- COUNTRY PROGRAM HAS JUST BEEN DRAFTED AND SUBMITTED TO GOK WHICH HAS GIVEN IT TENTATIVE APPROVAL. UNDERSTAND PROGRAM CALLS FOR 10 JOINTLY FUNDED PROJECTS OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS WITH GOK CONTRIBUTING \$805,000 AND UNDP \$600,000. ONCE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE, THERE ARE PLANS TO HOLD ANNUAL REVIEWS. FIT, WHICH NOT PART OF PROGRAM, WILL COST SEVERAL MILLION ADDITIONAL DOLLARS.

(E) APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS -- GIVEN NATURE OF UN PROGRAM FUNDING AND LACK OF US AID MISSION HERE, IT WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO TOO GREATLY CONCERN ITSELF WITH PROPOSED PROJECTS. HOWEVER, NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 KUWAIT 01686 01 OF 02 170930Z

INDIVIDUALS WITHIN EMBASSY HAVE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH UN RES REP AND OTHER UN PERSONNEL ACTIVE HERE. AS WE ARE INCREASINGLY RECEIVING AD HOC REQUESTS FROM GOK TO PROVIDE THEM WITH REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WE PLAN TO MORE FORMALLY AND REGULARLY MEET WITH RES REP AND STAFF TO INSURE THAT PROGRAMS COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER AND AVOID DUPLICATION.

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01686 02 OF 02 170939Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07

OES-03 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-02

H-02 OMB-01 DIWY-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2791

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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(F) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION -- DIFFUSION OF ONE MAN "PROJECTS"
IN KUWAIT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO COMMENT INTELLIGENTLY ON OVERALL
EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS. ARAB INSTITUTE IS MAKING A VALUABLE
IF RUDIMENTARY CONTRIBUTION TO TRAINING BADLY NEEDED PLANNERS
IN A VARIETY OF DISCIPLINES AND THEIR SUB-SPECIALTIES. UNDP
PROGRAM MAKES STRONG CONTRIBUTION BY PROVIDING NUMBER OF
TEACHERS FOR INSTITUTE. PROGRAM NOW COMING UNDER AUSPICES
UN/ECWA IN BEIRUT. RECENTLY COMPLETED FAO PROJECT WHICH
STUDIED METHODS TO GROW VEGETABLES IN KUWAIT MAY WELL BE
IMPLEMENTED ON COMMERCIAL SCALE. (PROGRAM MAY CONTINUE UNDER
FIT.) UNIDO TEAM, ALTHOUGH HAMPERED BY RESTRICTED MANDATE
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01686 02 OF 02 170939Z

GIVEN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, (PETROLEUM RELATED
PROJECTS GENERALLY NOT UNDER THEIR PURVIEW) AND FAVORITISM KNOWN

CERTAIN INTEREST GROUPS, HAS HELPED TO INTRODUCE MORE RATIONAL EVALUATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO DIVERSIFYING COUNTRY'S ECONOMY. ILO AND UNESCO MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS SUFFER FROM LACK OF ENTHUSIASM AMONG KUWAITIS TO TAKE UP CRAFT AND TECHNICAL JOBS -- LEAVING MOST INDIFFERENT YOUTHS AS OFTEN MAIN SOURCE OF STUDENTS. ILO REPS SEEM TO BE TRYING TO INTRODUCE CHANGES IN APPROACH AND CURRICULA. THEIR IMPACT HAS, THUS FAR, BEEN LIMITED. MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS, TO DATE, APPEAR TO BE ITU GROUP HELPING TO RUN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND UN/OTC PERSONNEL AT THE WATER RESOURCES TRAINING CENTER. HOWEVER, SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THESE PROGRAMS UNDER TWO OF BEST RUN MINISTRIES IN KUWAIT AND AGAIN IT DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE TO WHAT EXTENT THESE PROGRAMS OWE THEIR SUCCESS TO UN ASSISTANCE.

(G) PROJECT EVALUATION -- EMBOFF TOLD BY SENIOR UNDP OFFICIAL THAT TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM OPERATIVE IN KUWAIT. EMBOFF'S IMPRESSION FROM OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS THAT REVIEW MIGHT NOT BE AS THOROUGH AS IT MIGHT BE.

(H) WOMAN IN DEVELOPMENT -- NO WOMEN ARE ON THE SUBSTANTIVE UN STAFF IN KUWAIT. NONE OF ITS PROGRAMS SEEM TO IMPACT TO ANY LARGE DEGREE UPON WOMEN. AS KUWAIT IS QUICKLY LIBERALIZING ITS POLICIES TOWARDS WOMEN AND THEIR PLACE IN THE ECONOMY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT UNDP MIGHT GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO RECRUITING WOMEN TO SERVE HERE AND EXPLORE WITH THE GOK PROGRAMS WHICH COULD HELP INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO THE WORK FORCE. WORTH NOTING GOK TECH ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR, NAIMA SHAYJI, PARA 3A, ONE OF KUWAIT'S BRIGHTEST AND MOST INTELLIGENT YOUNG WOMEN.

(I) FOLLOWUP -- WITH SO MANY UN AGENCIES HAVING SMALL OPERATIONS IN KUWAIT WOULD SEEM TO MAKE SENSE FOR UN TO GIVE MORE AUTHORITY TO RESREP FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE EMPLOYEES OPERATING HERE. KUWAIT IS AN ANOMALY COMPARED TO MOST STATES IN WHICH THE UN HAS PROGRAMS, IN THAT IT PAYS FOR MOST OF ITS ASSISTANCE AND DOES NOT COMMAND THE URGENT ATTENTION OF LESS FORTUNATE LDC'S. IT WOULD SEEM THAT WITH AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01686 02 OF 02 170939Z

MANY FIT PROGRAMS HERE THAT BETTER ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION COULD BE ACHIEVED BY GIVING GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO THE RESREP AND HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF THAN NOW APPEARS TO EXIST FOR PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMS. WE, HOWEVER, ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ENOUGH ABOUT UN ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES TO STATE THIS WITH ASSURANCE.

4. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: (A) UN FULFILLS VALUABLE ROLE IN KUWAIT BY MAKING AVAILABLE BADLY NEEDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

AND SERVING AS A SECURITY BLANKET TO GOK OF KUWAIT'S STANDING
AS LEGITIMATE STATE WITHIN WORLD COMMUNITY. (B) PERSONNEL AND
PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE TO MODESTLY EXPAND, BUT IT SUBJECT
TO DOUBT IF KUWAIT (WHICH TO MANY SEEMS UNATTRACTIVE PLACE
TO LIVE) IS ATTRACTING THE QUALITY OF EXPERTISE COMMENSURATE
WITH ITS ABILITY TO PAY FOR IT. (C) KUWAIT HOPES TO BECOME
REGIONAL CENTER FOR UN PROGRAM IN ARAB LOWER GULF STATES.
RECENTLY, IT ANNOUNCED THAT KUWAIT-HEADQUATERED ARAB FUND
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD UTILIZE UNDP EXPERTS TO IDENTIFY
REGIONAL PROJECTS SUITABLE FOR JOINT ARAB COOPERATION AND
INVESTMENT.
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